

Industry to Back Bond Issue for New Civic Center

JUDGE DELAYS DECISION ON MORTUARY

ESTABLISHED 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

PRINTED AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVENUE IN TORRANCE

Published Monday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

40th Year—No. 70

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 30, 1954

12

28 PAGES

WEATHER

Low clouds with local drizzles was predicted for Torrance this morning, but weather should be mostly sunny in the afternoon. High yesterday was 69, with lows at 47. Little change in temperature is expected.

SERVING:

Lomita - Harbor City
Walteria - Hollywood Riviera
Seaside - El Nido - North
Torrance - Pacific Hills
Keystone - Avalon Village

10¢ per copy

30¢ per month by Carrier

Law Suit Names Council

Decision on an action to halt construction of a proposed mortuary at Cravens and Engracia is pending in Superior Court today following a hearing on the case yesterday.

Superior Court Judge Arnold Praeger of Los Angeles took the case under submission after receiving information on the matter.

The suit, brought by Earl P. Miller against the Torrance Planning Commission and City Council and the members of both bodies as individuals, was aimed at prohibiting the construction of a Halverson Mortuary on that southwest corner of the Cravens-Engracia intersection.

The Planning Commission and Council had voted to grant a zoning variance on the location to Henry Halverson, San Pedro and Catalina mortician, to erect a mortuary.

Miller spearheaded opposition to the variance, and took the matter to court following approval of the site for the construction by the City Council.

City Attorney James Hall answered the original writ and submitted a memorandum in opposition, setting forth the city's side of the case.

Judge Praeger took the case under submission. It was indicated that he would probably announce his ruling later this week.

Delivery of Green Phone Book Starts

Torrance's new bright green telephone books are being distributed this week, marking the first time colored phone directories have been used in the United States.

But Torrance, in the Southern Section directory, won't be alone with its new color. As soon as the four other directories in the Los Angeles extended area come off the press, they will be distinctly identified. The Western book will be orange, Northeastern, blue, Northwestern, brown, and Central, gray.

Nearly 63,000 books with more than 300,000 alphabetical listings will be distributed in the Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, San Pedro and Wilmington areas. The 1954 edition has 96 more pages than last year's book.

A notice on the front cover reminds that on Oct. 3, local subscribers can dial directly to El Segundo numbers, using a new EASigate prefix.

Pacific Telephone Manager Dick Pyle reminded phone users to check their old books for valuables before handing them over to the deliveryman.

Kidnapped Girl Sought

Sheriff's deputies were still searching yesterday for a four-year-old girl reportedly kidnaped near 234th St. and Monica Ave. Tuesday afternoon.

Seven-year-old Susan Marie Ball, of 413 W. 233rd St., told deputies that she had seen a man offer the small girl a candy cane, and then snatch her into his car. He drove off with the girl screaming, she said.

Several other bystanders confirmed the story. No report of a missing girl had been received yesterday, however, and no car fitting the description the girl gave has been found.

The girl was described as about four years old, with brown hair, a pink dress, and black shoes. The alleged kidnapper is between 50 and 60, tall, has a black-marked face, and thin. He was wearing a black hat and suit. The car is an old model, either black or dark blue.

DAV Votes \$50 Gift

South Bay Chapter 92 of the Disabled American Veterans donated \$50 to the patients of the tubercular ward at Harbor General Hospital, it was reported yesterday by Adjutant J. G. Caldwell.

The money, added to \$150 previously voted by the veterans for this project, is used to purchase supplies for rehabilitation hobbies in the ward, Caldwell said.



'Travel' Dinner Scheduled for Saturday Night

Nativity Catholic Church, Young People's Club will hold its first progressive dinner Saturday evening beginning in front of the church at 7:30, it was announced here yesterday.

All members are asked to meet in front of the church, from where they will then be taken to various houses where each course of the dinner will be served.

Gelatin salad will be followed by chicken gumbo, prepared by Aaron Thibodeaux, who recently arrived here from Louisiana with a "special" recipe, he claims. Cake, ice cream and coffee will be served, followed by an open-air style dance.

Army to Open Local Office

The U.S. Army Recruiting Service in San Pedro announced today that a new branch office will be re-opened in the Torrance Post Office Building on Monday, Oct. 4.

The new facilities will be available to interested applicants of the Torrance and beach areas, for their convenience.

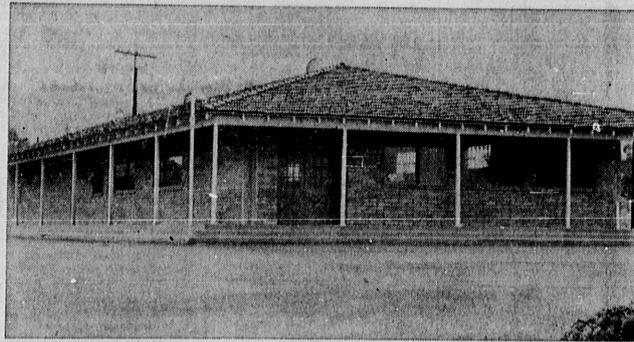
M/Sgt. J. H. Ambersson, U.S. Army representative, will be at the Post Office Building Monday thru Friday. M/Sgt. Ambersson has been a resident of the Los Angeles Harbor area for almost 30 years, and is well known in most local communities.

Ambersson is a veteran of over 12 years service as a member of the armed forces and saw duty in the South Pacific during World War II, and in Alaska. Office hours at the recruiting station will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, and from 1 to 9 p.m. Friday.

Polio Victim Returns Home

Clark Osborne, 6, was able to be returned to his parents, the Edwards, recently from 1208 Maple Ave., recently from the Sister Kenny Polio Hospital in El Monte, where he had been a patient since Aug. 3.

The Kenny Polio Hospital is the largest facility in the west treating the crippling disease exclusively, and is open to all people regardless of race, religion, residence color, age or ability to pay. It is also the only institution on the West Coast to use the Kenny Method of care in its entire form.



SET FOR OPENING . . . This brand new Walteria post office building, serving the entire south Torrance area, will have a formal opening Friday morning, complete with ribbon cuttings, short speeches and the usual "First Day" ceremonies. On hand will be Torrance Postmaster, Mrs. Clara Conner, Superintendent Bob Sleeth, and other dignitaries. The building is located on Pacific Coast Hwy. west of Ocean Ave., near the Fish Shanty Restaurant.

Builder Says No To Arbitration

The home repair dispute between residents of Crenshaw Gardens and Developer Tony Paravano reached an impasse at the Torrance City Council meeting Tuesday when Paravano submitted a list of items which covered the matters he would volunteer to take care of—and announced that he would not agree to arbitrate any more of the cases.

Paravano, who was represented this time by Attorney Ed Rosendahl of Los Angeles, indicated that he was certain that he had complied with his agreement to repair all structural defects in violation of the Uniform Building Code. He has been substantiated in this contention by officials of the city's building department, who agree that the complaints now being registered concern such items as paper, paint, and plaster cracks.

Members of the Council gave indications that they were about to wash their hands of the task of being mediators in the dispute. City Attorney James M. Hall was instructed to bring in a written opinion on the criminal responsibility of the Princeton Construction Co., builders of the homes, in the matter.

Chace Warns of Fire Danger in Mountain Areas

Destruction of hundreds of acres of valuable forest land and watershed areas in Los Angeles County in the past ten days graphically illustrates the need for a continual "all-out" campaign by Los Angeles citizenry for fire prevention, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Presenting a resolution at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday in behalf of Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3 to 9, Chace said that the fires of last week in Angelus National Forest and in the Chatsworth area were responsible for "untold damages, simply because of human carelessness and negligence."

Over 4400 acres of watershed area were threatened by the conflagrations, according to the supervisor. He credited the "heroic work of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, under the direction of Chief Keith E. Klinger, and the fire crews of the City of Los Angeles and the National Forest Service" with holding of the damage to a few hundred acres.

He asked that resolutions of thanks be sent to the groups who aided in the fire fighting. Chace paid particular tributes to the combined efforts of the fire-fighting crews and to the assistance that they received from the juvenile detention camp crews and the Zuni Indian fire-fighters.

Truck Roars Thru Station

A gasoline station attendant pumping fuel into a car narrowly escaped injury when a 10-ton truck and trailer roared through the corner lot, knocking over a gas pump.

The incident, at Western Ave. and Lomita Blvd. late Wednesday evening, was caused when a car swerved in front of truck driver Earl Robertson, 22, of Long Beach, police said.

Damaged was a car owned by Lawrence Anderson, 49, of 2020 Lomita Blvd., reports indicated. John Pennington was the gas station attendant.

Fire Companies Stand By After Gas Pipe Breaks

Two County Fire Department engine companies stood by for more than an hour at 245th St. and Narbonne Ave., Tuesday, to cope with any possible blast or fire from a severed gas line.

Fire Captain Robert Thomas reported a telephone company excavating crew snapped a gas line, allowing gas to escape into the Lomita business area.

The fire crews stood ready in case the fumes ignited. Several gas meters on nearby buildings were turned off to eliminate any possible source of ignition.

Crews from the gas company repaired the break.

Emma Perplexes Police in Midnight Stroll Escapade

Emma had local police in a tizzy this week-end, and all because she went for a walk.

A big gal for her age, Emma was spotted by police strolling along in Hollywood Riviera, shortly after midnight. Palos Verdes Estates police first eyed her, and radioed to Torrance gendarmes to send out a car.

'Cause it just isn't the thing to do be caught wandering alone after dark, and in Hollywood Riviera. Especially if you're like Emma, she's an elephant.

Emma, who tips the scales at 4-tons, slipped her moorings from a vacant lot near Via Colusa and Calle De Arboles. She had been taking part in the grand opening of a nearby service station.

Officer Hyman Fischer finally located the animal's trainer, who with a few harsh words, sent her lumbering back to her resting spot.

Tax Committee Supports Bonds

Unanimous endorsement of Proposition No. 1 on the Oct. 19 ballot was voted this week by the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, whose membership is comprised of representatives of major Torrance industries.

Committee Chairman Reed H. Parkin, of Doak Aircraft reported yesterday that the industries, who pay about two-thirds of the cost of any such improvements, offered their wholehearted support to the proposition to erect a new city hall and police station.

"We just realized that a city of 50,000 with a potential population of more than 100,000 can not continue to operate out of a civic center designed to handle the relative light load of a city of 15,000," Parkin said.

Building Banks High His remarks parallel those made recently by City Manager George Stevens and others who have pointed out that Torrance, whose building permits surpassed those of San Francisco, Seattle, or Long Beach last month, has no separate office for its building department.

"Our building department operates off a counter, and its officials share desk space," Stevens said.

In a talk given before the Torrance Lions Club Tuesday, the City Manager repeated his statement that the cost of the entire bond program would be about \$1.75 to the average homeowner during the first year. It would decrease yearly.

To Cost \$1.75 Stevens said that the civic center issue will cost the homeowner about \$1.25 and that the swimming pool proposal, Proposition No. 2, would cost an additional 50 cents if approved by the voters.

A number of homeowners groups have indicated active support of the bond proposals, and other groups are planning active programs to urge passage of the new civic center proposals.

Hamilton, Levy Name Area Chairmen for Chest Appeal

Mobilizing in preparation for the 1954-55 Community Chest appeal is Torrance's Commerce and Industry Division, headed by Warren W. Hamilton and Sam Levy, it was announced yesterday.

Both men have been named to spark the drive by Mayor Nicholas O. Dralle, area chairman. They will head up a team that will help solicit funds through local firms and industries for the Chest's 164 health and welfare agencies.

Name Section Chairmen Section chairmen enrolled by Levy include John Ebbinghouse, 401 Arlington Ave.; David Soule,

Psychiatrist Will Observe Wife Shooter

Examination by a psychiatrist has been ordered by Superior Court Judge Joe Rayercraft for Howard Dean Friend, 30-year-old Lawndale aircraft worker who is charged with the shooting of his wife last Aug. 2.

The case was continued until Oct. 6. Friend is charged with assault with intent to commit murder. The shooting occurred in front of a house at 3540 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. after a family argument.

Friend was returned from Wichita, Kan., where he fled after the shooting.

Giant Air Raid Sirens Okayed For Two Parks

Installation of giant air-raid warning sirens at Alondra and Lomita parks, and another in the Dominguez Hills area will get under way within the next two weeks, the County Engineers office announced yesterday.

Robert Johnson, of the county department, revealed that a \$5000 gasoline-powered, Thunderbolt Federal siren will be mounted atop a 40-foot tower at Alondra Park, to be used only in the event of a "red alert" or raid warning.

The noise-maker, described as producing an extremely loud warbling sound capable of being heard for many miles, is powered by a 10-horsepower engine. The siren is of the compressor-generator type.

At Lomita Park, a giant-size siren, driven by a 180-horsepower Chrysler V-8 engine will be placed on top of a 45-foot tower. Cost of the unit and installation is \$10,000, it was stated. A seven-foot security fence will be built around the unit.

Both sirens are rotating, and capable of producing so much sound that the sirens themselves may never be tested, it was indicated.

The Dominguez Hill warning device will be of the Thunderbolt type.

Truck Roars Thru Station

1524 Border Ave.; Bernard Lee, 1315 Sartori Ave.; and Dale Isenberg, 1346 El Prado Ave.

Hamilton, who heads the "Public Employees and Schools" section, has named the following as section chairmen: George Powell, 1754 Torrance Blvd.; Howard Clark, 2335 Plaza del Arroyo; and James Halle, 2200 Carson St.

Kick-off meetings will be held by each section as soon as respective teams are completely organized, it was indicated.

Theme of this year's Chest appeal is a "fair share" plan devised to aid the donor in determining what his "fair gift" should be, based on contributions of 91,000 donors in the 1953 campaign.

\$300,000 in Federal Funds Voted Schools

Federal funds totaling more than a quarter million dollars have been earmarked for the Torrance Unified School District for new school construction, School Superintendent J. H. Hull said he was informed this week.

The money, totaling \$312,781, is part of the original application made by the district. Dr. Hull said. The appropriation was voted by Congress earlier this year.

"The additional funds made available would pay for a new school equivalent to the recently completed Carr Elementary School," Dr. Hull said.

Herald Support For New Bond Issues Hailed

Endorsement of the civic center bond proposals by the Torrance HERALD continued to draw praise from farsighted citizens this week as residents of all parts of the city wrote or telephoned the editor to thank this newspaper for its active support in the campaign.

Formal endorsement of the proposals was carried in a front page editorial published in the Sept. 23 issue of the HERALD.



GERALD EASTHAM, M.D., Kiwanis Chief

Eastham Named Kiwanis Chief

Dr. Gerald M. Eastham was elected president of the Kiwanis Club at its meeting Monday evening. He succeeds Byron Scotton.

Other officers elected included Joe Doss, first vice-president; John Barrington, second vice-president, and C. J. Meadow, treasurer. The new board of directors includes Dean Sears, Theodore Meiers, Don Dick, and Dr. Alden C. Smith. Officers will be installed at a later meeting.

After-School Recreation Hours Told

Basketball, badminton, and volleyball will be included in the Torrance Recreation Department's fall and winter after-school program which begins next Monday at Seaside Elementary School and Torrance High School.

The high school program will feature basketball for boys from 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, the boys gymnasium. Women's and girls' badminton will be played every Monday from 9:30 p.m. Men's and women's volleyball will be from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Miss Doris Avis, Coach Dick Leach, and Coach Cliff Greybehl are recreation leaders.

Under the leadership of Phyllis A. Kincannon and Robert S. Dollarhide, an after-school recreational program will be held at Seaside School from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. each day.

The recreation program at Walteria and McMaster Parks will be open during afternoon and evening hours, and at El Retiro during afternoon hours.

In a few weeks, a program will be started at Torrance Park. Les Breitenfeldt and Vern Clark lead the McMaster program; Lloyd Harline and Bill Clark at Walteria, and Valerie Daniels at El Retiro.